(c) As per the TPDS, the number of BPL households in Bihar and UP as per the recommendations of the Late Prof. Lakdawala Expert Group is 85.90 lacs and 95.48 lacs respectively, which comes to 54.96% and 40.85% of the total population of the two States.

(d) As per the TPDS guidelines, the State Governments are required to identify the BPL families, issue special ration cards to them and make all necessary arrangements for issue of foodgrains in a satisfactory and transparent manner.

Amount Due to Karnataka

4792. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre has to pay Rs. 10 crore to the Karnataka State towards compensation to the victims of atrocities on the interstate couples; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to release the same?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Voice of America Report

4793. SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Voice of America report stated that Human Rights Activist Jalil Andrabi's assassin has been identified as an officer in our Army in the rank of Major;

(b) if so, the steps taken to bring the culprit to book; and

(c) if not, whether the Government have sent a protest to VOA for the false allegation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) The Government is not aware of any such report by Voice of America. However, the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir in its order of 10th April, 1997, has directed the Special Investigating Team enquiring into Jalil Andrabi's case to secure the presence for questioning of a Territorial Army Officer, Major Avtar Singh. The concerned Army authorities have also been asked to render all possible help to the Special Investigating Team in this regard.

(c) No Sir. Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

MPLADS

4794. SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued revised guidelines for implementation of development works under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have made any assessment of the implementation of the scheme and the response of the people in local areas about the scheme;

(d) whether the Government propose to enhance the allocation of funds under the scheme;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which the funds for 1997-98 would be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The revised guidelines on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) were issued on 15.02.1997 superseding the previous guidelines. A copy of the revised guidelines have been issued to all the Hon'ble Members of Parliament.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) As per guidelines, the funds are to be released immediately after the vote on Account/Budget is passed, subject to the actual progress achieved in expenditure and execution of works.

[Translation]

Loss due to Rain

4795. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have estimated the loss suffered to the standing crops in various States due to unseasonal rain in March-April, 1997;

(b) if so, the names of affected States and the details of losses suffered by them, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government are considering to provide some financial assistance as compensation to the affected, farmers; and

(d) if so, the amount likely to be given for the purpose, State-wise?